

**Research Activity Panel Meeting Summaries**  
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium, RAP Chair

---

**APRIL 2001 RAP MEETING**

Host: Monterey Bay Aquarium  
Friday, April 13, 2001 9am-12pm  
Attendance: 9 RAP members, 10 guests

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Institutional Update: Monterey Bay Aquarium (Chris Harrold)**

The mission of the Monterey Bay Aquarium is to inspire conservation of the oceans through live exhibits, education outreach, research & conservation.

2001 Budget: 41 million

Research and Conservation Activities:

SORAC (Sea Otter Research and Conservation)

- Sea Otter research, rehabilitation, and return are the goals of SORAC
- The program also seeks to conduct research that contributes to the long-term conservation of southern sea otters and to improve captive management strategies in case the wild population is lost
- Of the 193 Sea Otters recovered since 1984, 74 were returned to the wild, 55 survived beyond the 2 week critical period, 28 survived beyond 1 year, and 4 pups born in wild to SORAC graduates

TRCC (Tuna Research & Conservation Center)

- The goals of this program are to improve our understanding of ecology & biology of pelagic fishes, and improved fishery management and conservation
- The Monterey Bay Aquarium is also developing and expanding knowledge of captive pelagic fishes for husbandry and display
- Tagging tunas in Atlantic with “pop-up” satellite archival tags has contributed significant information on migration patterns in this fishery

Marine Conservation Policy (a new arena for the Aquarium)

- The goal is to express MBA conservation policy based on the best scientific data possible
- E.g., Seafood Watch- To increase consumer awareness of sustainable seafood resources
- MBA is developing partnership with seafood purveyors (e.g., Whole Foods, Bon Appetite, Chef’s Collaborative) and is developing a sustainable seafood information center

COMPASS (Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea)

- Partners in this program include Sea Web and Island Press
- Their goal is to accelerate the pace of solutions to important marine conservation problems

MBA Outreach includes the Public Forum

### **Using Oil Dispersants in Spill Response (Ellen Faurot-Daniels)**

Since 1992, six area committees have been meeting regularly throughout California to form response plans to authorize mechanical response technology. Currently dispersants are used only with Regional Response Team (RRT) approval. The area committees want to define a process for quicker approval. Pre-approval zones would be in Federal waters only 3-200 mi offshore. Sub committees have been established to gather resource information for ecological risk assessments. New zones could be fully or partially pre-approved. The Area Committees need Resource information. Ellen requested that RAP members contact her via email with suggestions and contacts for resource information. Pelagic water & upper water column information needed the most. Ellen would like to come back to the RAP and give a presentation on future draft recommendations

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Desalination Plant Issues (Marc Del Piero)**

Desalination plants are not the answer to everyone's problems! Long term adverse impacts include damage to the seafloor where the waste comes out (e.g., brine sinks to seafloor, and 40 gallons of fresh water produces 60 gallons of waste). MBNMS policy includes no new discharge into Sanctuary. The Persian Gulf has the most desalination anywhere. Some studies indicate they have impacted regional fisheries. Carmel Dam vs. Desalination plant: in an EIR/EIS alternatives actions are mandated by CEQA and require analysis. For more information: American Desalting Association- Has bibliography of case studies in Persian Gulf & Caribbean & Wateruse Association of the US- Has a Northern California office in Sacramento.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Management Plan Review Process (Brady Phillips)**

Brady gave a brief update of the SAC meeting. MBNMS, GFNMS & CBNMS will do their review at the same time. This is a 2-3 year process that started in February. A state of the Sanctuary report will be available to public in September. The public process includes scoping meetings that will begin in October. On a side note: starting in July CDFG will hold public meetings on Marine Protected Areas. Mary Yoklavich is in a group of 8 advisors to the state on the MPA's. Her group would like to come and talk to the RAP and to the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fishing (Mike Rickett's group). On May 23 there is a meeting on reserves in Inverness (call Ed Ueber for more info).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Marine Reserve Process & Request for GIS layers (Erica Burton)**

Erica informed the RAP that the Sanctuary will have an active roll in the State's Marine Reserve process. Erica will send an email requesting any GIS data and/or layers that RAP members might have that would be helpful in the process. She would also like suggestions for habitats or sensitive areas that should be included or omitted for consideration. Mary Yoklavich stated that Nancy Wright at CDF&G has most of the relevant information on GIS.

**RAP Website Update (Kelly Newton)**

Kelly announced that the summaries from past meetings are now available on the website at:  
<http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Intro/advisory/rapma.html>

**Introduction of new GFNMS employee (Jan Rolleteo)**

Jan introduced Natalie Cosentino, the newest GFNMS employee. Natalie will be working on intertidal monitoring and Water Quality.

**Pt. Pinos Update (Chris Harrold)**

Chris informed the RAP that the City of Pacific Grove filed an objection to the Department of Fish & Game. The objection was reviewed and denied because the code under which the objection was filed was deemed inapplicable. The State says they are the ones responsible for regulating collecting and scientific permits